

## **EDUCATION NOWADAYS**

**RITA JOHAN & JOHAN HARLAN**

Gunadarma University, Jl Margonda Raya 100, Depok, Indonesia

### **ABSTRACT**

Education nowadays has become prominent thing as it involves most people to take part in this matter. In addition, it cannot be separated from human's life. Both males and females need to be educated. Education plays an important role in the development of a country. If a country does not have proper education, it may be left behind by other countries which support education. There are many factors that affect the education system. Culture, technology, and economical matters give much impact to the education system of a country. The regulation made by the government affects how the education system works in a country. The education system in Indonesia still uses the one-way communication. The teachers stand in front of in the class and explain all the materials, while the students just sit down on their seats and listen to the teachers. One-way communication has negative effects on the students. They become unconfident to share their opinions or even ask a question. The government should improve this education to a better one. Two-way communication is considered as a better way in teaching method. The development of technology contributes much impact on the education. It can be very useful for many people to get the education. Education is essential in human's life. As time goes by, system of education changes dynamically following the needs of human beings.

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Education System, School, Students

### **INTRODUCTION**

Education nowadays has become prominent thing as it involves most people to take part in this matter. In addition, it cannot be separated from human's life. Both males and females need to be educated. They have the same right to get education as much as they want because there is no limitation for education. No matter how old a person is, he / she can still take education during the rest of their lives. Hence, there is no such thing as too late to get education. Education is the only bridge that leads people to their better futures. Education plays an important role in the development of a country. If a country does not have proper education, it may be left behind by other countries which support education. The development of a country can be determined by whether its citizens have good education or not. The better the quality of education that a country has, the faster it is likely to develop. No matter what global problems that a country is facing, whether it's the elimination of poverty, the creation of peace, or environmental energy problems, the solutions will always include education. It is never done without an education.

Most people agree that education is very important in their lives. Many people compete to get better education. Many of them choose a promising institution that is considered to be the best for them to get education. The higher quality of institution they choose, the higher the educational fee they have to pay. They should spend money for education more than those for any other things. They should put education first on the list of their expenses.

## METHODS

This research is conducted with the aim of finding out the effect of education in a society. The writer would like to show how a society becomes after being facilitated to get education well, and how it is without education. The objects of this research are some teenagers taken from two different villages in Indonesia. The two villages have a different level of education. To keep the privacy of the two villages, the writer will name the educated village “village A”, and the other one, the village which lacks of education “village B”.

The writer takes 30 participants from each village, 15 males and 15 females. They are in the 13-18 age range. The writer gives each participant a questionnaire that they have to fill in. Most of the questions are about the general knowledge, such as stating the first point of Pancasila and mentioning the former presidents of Indonesia. There are also some questions about their personal information, such as whether or not they smoke. The writer also observes how they behave when they talk to me and do the questionnaire. Finally, the writer tries to figure out what factors that make the two villages have different level of education.

## RESULTS

After observing their behaviour, the writer finds that the attitudes of the participants in village A are better than the ones in village B. While doing the questionnaire the participants in village B is considered to be quite impolite as the writer catches some participants putting their feet on their table, talking loudly, wandering, and even smoking in the room. On the contrary, the room in which the participants of village a doing the questionnaire, is quite. Nobody wanders nor talks. We can conclude that education has an important role in improving someone’s attitude. The following are the results of their personal information according to their answers.

**Table 1: Some Characteristics of the Study Participants**

| No | Personal Information | Village A | Village B | Total |
|----|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 1  | Smoking              | 4         | 25        | 29    |
| 2  | Drinking habit       | –         | 10        | 10    |
| 3  | Having a job         | 28        | 3         | 31    |
| 4  | Married              | –         | 4         | 4     |

As the table above has mentioned, the quality of life of the participants in the two villages is different. The ones who live in village A live much more effectively than they are in village B. As they have been informed about the risk of smoking, drinking alcohol, and underage marriage, the participants in village A manages to avoid them. Most of the participants in village A are early riser and already have a job. They also can speak Indonesian well as the teachers in their schools speak Indonesia, and some of them say that they must speak Indonesian in the school. Therefore, according to the result stated earlier, the writer will conclude that education brings awareness to them to live an effective life. The following is the result of the general knowledge of the two participants in the two villages.

**Table 2: General Knowledge of the Study Participants**

| No | Village      | Number of Participants | Persons with Good Scores |           |
|----|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
|    |              |                        | N                        | %         |
| 1  | A            | 30                     | 28                       | 93        |
| 2  | B            | 30                     | 5                        | 17        |
|    | <b>Total</b> | <b>60</b>              | <b>33</b>                | <b>55</b> |

The result reveals that the participants in village A have better knowledge than those in village B. There are also some participants of village B who do not know when the Independence Day of Indonesia is. It shows that education is important in a village to improve its society's knowledge.

## DISCUSSIONS

Education becomes very well-known to people. Perhaps, some people cannot state the definition of education precisely, however they must have known what education is in general. Lexically, education means a process of teaching and learning to improve knowledge. The main purpose of education is to bring human beings to enlightenment, so that they know what is right and what is wrong. We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate.

Generally, people get their first education since they are 3 or 4 years old. Then, they go through each level of education with their efforts. The time that they spend for getting education is not little. It often takes longer time than other activities do. Some people somehow consider education as a must-thing to have, and they cannot live without it. Hence, they can spend almost their whole lives to get education from some institutions.

There are many factors that affect the education system. Culture, technology, and economical matters give much impact to the education system of a country. And also, the regulation made by the government affects how the education system works in a country. Brown and White (2013) even stressed the need for students since early childhood to become familiar with alternative practices in other countries. As time goes by, education system changes dynamically with the intention of improving it.

There are many advantages and disadvantages of the change of education system. Sometimes it works well and is appropriate for the citizens of a country, and sometimes it even makes the process of educating worse. When education system does not seem to go well, the government will propose a better one to improve it, with the consideration of some scientists and organizations involved in changing the education system. The government sometimes adopts the education system from other countries which they consider it is the best for the country.

Nowadays, most students tend to focus only on their goals, whether passing a test, graduating, or getting a job that they want. They will do whatever it takes to achieve their goals quickly. However, they do not really learn what they are supposed to learn.

When the students pass a test or graduate, they must have learned something that makes them succeed to achieve their goals. But, they did not really learn all the things that they should have really learned. Perhaps, they only learned how to memorize names, places, and dates, just because they wanted to pass a test, without really understanding what they were learning. Then, after the test, they will forget the materials that they have memorized, in order to clear their mind for the next test.

Right now, a school is a place for most people to determine that their goal is to get out as soon as possible. The students consider that the faster the finish the school, the better it will be. They will be proud of themselves when they get a good mark in a test, or graduate with a high GPA. But, they may be afraid of what will happen next after they graduate because they realize that they have not learned the important matters that are necessary and needed when they get

a job and work. In fact, many companies out there do not consider a person from how high his GPA is, but whether or not he is qualified enough to do the job that he applies. Therefore, students should really learn what is important in connection with what qualification they should have after graduation to get a job.

Instead of memorizing the material before exams, the students should try to notice and understand every material that they learn because in the future they may need that information. Say, they get the highest rank when they graduate. If they just worked hard to achieve it, and did not really learn, they may get lost after leaving the institution because there are likely no companies that will accept them to work there, only based on their ranks. Your high GPA means nothing when you do not have the skill. Hence, the students have to have the skills that are necessary to get the job.

When students of English literature graduate from the university, they may apply for some jobs that are in relation with their major. They have to know that in order to get the job, they must be able to speak English well. No matter how high their knowledge about English is, or how high their GPAs are, there are only the students who are capable to speak English well who will likely be accepted to get the job. So, we have to know what really matters and do it so well, that we will not regret in the future and get a good job.

Speaking is the most important aspect of a language. If we cannot speak in English, we cannot communicate with the native speaker directly. People may consider that it is useless to have a major in English literature and learn many theories about English, yet we do not speak English well. One thing that differentiates the students of English literature from those of other majors is the capability to speak English well.

There are some aspects of education that should be improved. Most people start going to preschool, like kindergarten or playgroup to get their first education. The pupils are introduced to the education with the intention of making them interested to study before they go to the elementary school.

Although it is not a must to go to a preschool, it is necessary for the children between the age of 2 and 5 to go there. The parents send their children to the preschool so that their children can learn what is necessary to have when they study at elementary school. When they go to the first level of elementary school, they are faced with some lessons that if they do not have any prior knowledge about it, they will find it difficult to understand the lesson. Sometimes, the teachers of elementary school do not teach their students how to memorize the alphabet, how to read, and how to learn about numbers. On the contrary, the teachers just continue the lessons from high school, like counting numbers. So they have to learn it before they go to elementary school, because they have to be able to read in order to understand the lesson.

While they accomplish grade by grade, they are asked to learn and master many subjects. From the elementary school until senior high school, the students are not offered to choose their major specifically based on their interest. And after they graduate from senior high school, they may choose their major that they are interested in. Such a system of education is not effective and wasting time. They learn many subjects which they are actually not interested in. However, they still have to learn them all in order to be able to get through the higher grade. In fact, they do not really learn and master the subjects well, even though they get high scores on the subjects. They waste their time by studying subjects that they do not like. For example, they are actually interested in learning English, but in school they also have to learn Physics, Biology, History, etc. Therefore they do not really concentrate on the subjects.

It will be much more effective if the students if the students are directed to the field which they like. The students should be given an opportunity to choose their own major based on their passion. And, the parents should encourage their

children to determine the major which they like by themselves. If the parents force their children to take some certain major, the result will not be good, and sometimes they do not want to continue their studies just because they do not like them.

When the students are directed to choose their own major from the beginning, they may be able to master it quickly. For example, if they are interested in Mathematics, what they learn should be about Mathematics. So, they can become professionals in their major.

The education system in Indonesia still uses the one-way communication. The teachers stand in front of in the class and explain all the materials, while the students just sit down on their seats and listen to the teachers. The students accept all the things that teachers say without any consideration. And they do anything which the teachers ask them to do. Because of that one-way communication, there is a miscommunication between the students and the teachers. As the result, although Indonesia has the fourth largest education system in the world, yet in a landmark education report of 50 nations Indonesia ranked last (Liquid Future, 2013).

At the end of the class, the teachers usually ask the students whether or not there is any question regarding the materials that has been given on that day. Then, usually, nobody puts up his / her finger and asks a question. They are all staring at the teacher quietly. Because there are no students asking a question, the teacher will consider that all the students have understood all the materials clearly, while actually there are some students who do not really understand the lesson. They just do not have enough courage to ask a question. They are so afraid of making a mistake that their friends will laugh at them.

One-way communication has negative effects on the students. They become unconfident to share their opinions or even ask a question. The government should improve this education to a better one. Two-way communication is considered as a better way in teaching method. Teacher should create a setting that will provide the students with intellectual capabilities that allow them to expand their minds instead of directing them (Goldson, 2010).

Bastian (2013) stated that Indonesian youths need an education system that strongly emphasizes reasoning and allows the students to think critically, not simply to memorize. The students tend to be more creative and confident there. If they think that the teachers make a mistake they will point it out critically. And when they do not understand something, they will directly put up their fingers and ask the thing that they do not understand. They will keep asking until they understand everything. They do not feel embarrassed when they make some mistakes. They know that making some mistakes is a process of learning. In this way, they will understand the material more. Most of the schools in Indonesia divide the students into some classes based on their competencies on understanding the lesson. Those who have competencies above the average will be placed in the same class, while the students whose competencies are above the average are placed in the other class. So, in each class, the students have about the same level of competencies.

This method can increase the willingness of the students to compete with each other in a positive way because they tend to have a desire to be the number one in the class. If all of the students are placed in a same class and not divided based on their competencies, it can demotivate them. Some of them will not study hard to achieve the top rank because they know that no matter how hard they study, they will not be able to defeat the one who has the above level of intelligence. They become unconfident of themselves because of that.

If the students are placed based on their divisions, they will be more confident to study because of the same level of intelligence as the other students. It is also helpful to the teachers because they will use different methods in teaching each division. When the teachers teach in a class in which the student with low intelligence are placed, they should not teach strictly, otherwise the students will blame themselves for their lack of understanding of the lesson, and also they will study passively without any interaction with the teachers.

The development of technology contributes much impact on the education. The use of technical gadgets has distracted the student generation from their book study and theory oriented study. Hence, educational institution should embrace technology to enhance their education pattern and teaching methods (Montoya, 2013). Technologies can be very useful for many people to get the education. It makes the process of obtaining knowledge easier. For example, the use of the Internet enables people to search and share anything, so we can obtain much information that we would like to have. However, it somehow has disadvantages that can worsen the process of educating. For example, students nowadays do not get used to writing the materials that they are learning in classroom. They become lazy to write because they are used to typing anything on their laptops that is considered much faster than writing it.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, education is essential in human's life. As time goes by, system of education changes dynamically following the needs of human beings. There are still many things that need to be improved in order to get a good system of education. Therefore, all of the people need to be involved in improving it, so that the education system gets better and better every year. The main factor is how good the facilitation given by the local government to get education is.

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